

**From:** [Susan Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Michael Honeycutt](#); [Andrea Morrow](#)  
**Cc:** [Gray, David](#); [Richard Chism](#); [Ryan Vise](#); [Tracy Miller](#); [Lori Wilson](#); [Emily Lindley](#); [Ramiro Garcia](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review  
**Date:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 12:02:46 PM

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Proposed response: We have established a Unified Command with other state and federal partners, and are in the field conducting rapid needs assessments. The TCEQ will use the available technology that will best support the field activities being conducted, which may include the use of hand held air monitoring equipment.

Also for the highlighted statement, I would check with Air Permitting – and would not use the statement drafted it's not what is being asked??

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**From:** Michael Honeycutt  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 03, 2017 11:45 AM  
**To:** Andrea Morrow <[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Richard Chism <[Richard.Chism@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Richard.Chism@tceq.texas.gov)>; Ryan Vise <[Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov)>; Susan Johnson <[susan.johnson@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:susan.johnson@tceq.texas.gov)>; Tracy Miller <[tracy.miller@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:tracy.miller@tceq.texas.gov)>; Lori Wilson <[Lori.Wilson@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Lori.Wilson@tceq.texas.gov)>; Emily Lindley <[Emily.Lindley@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Emily.Lindley@tceq.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions with EPA additions- please review

Looks good. One more thing. Can we add that regional staff are doing recon with hand held equipment ?

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:43 AM, Andrea Morrow <[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

I've heard from Cory, David, and Mike. OCE are you ok with the start-up/shut-down language? Lori, Emily, Ryan, any changes?

**Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

EPA has its surveillance aircraft conducting air monitoring for the plant fire. Also, EPA's mobile air monitoring TAGA bus will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring as well.

Emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter is being conducted. We will make those data available as we are able. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

The same rules apply for start-up, shut-down activities however delays may occur based upon factors related to the emergency in some situations (i.e. power outages, computer system failure, etc.).

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**From:** Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:38 AM  
**To:** Michael Honeycutt  
**Cc:** Andrea Morrow; Richard Chism; Ryan Vise; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson; Emily Lindley  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

Feel free to add that EPA has its surveillance aircraft conducting air monitoring for the plant fire. Also, our mobile air monitoring TAGA bus will be in Houston to assist with air monitoring.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:35 AM, Michael Honeycutt  
<[Michael.Honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Michael.Honeycutt@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

Ah. Missed that.

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:33 AM, Andrea Morrow  
<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

He dropped the ozone question, Mike.

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**From:** Michael Honeycutt  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:32 AM

**To:** Andrea Morrow

**Cc:** Richard Chism; Ryan Vise; David Gray  
([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)); Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller; Lori Wilson; Emily Lindley

**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

On the ozone blurb, you could add that TCEQ and EPA send ozone notifications like we always do to subscribers of our notification systems. There was nothing unusual about this notification.

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:28 AM, Andrea Morrow  
<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

Okay, what do you all think of this:

**Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

Emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter is being conducted. We will make those data available as we are able. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

The same rules apply for start-up, shut-down activities however delays may occur based upon factors related to the emergency in some situations (i.e. power outages, computer system failure, etc.).

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**From:** Michael Honeycutt  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** Richard Chism; Andrea Morrow  
**Cc:** Ryan Vise; David Gray ([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)); Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

You could add that we are doing emergency response monitoring at the Arkema facility evacuation perimeter and will make that data available as we have time. So far, nothing of immediate health concern has been detected.

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**From:** Richard Chism  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:19:57 AM  
**To:** Andrea Morrow  
**Cc:** Ryan Vise; David Gray ([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)); Michael Honeycutt; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

This is directly from the draft joint response this morning. You can use it.

**Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to

the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by state authorities, all the ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi to Beaumont were protected before the storm. Since then, state authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:14 AM, Andrea Morrow <[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)> wrote:

Which is correct, 65% or this:

- Air Quality Monitoring: One of the many preparations for Hurricane Harvey included EPA, TCEQ, and other monitoring entities temporarily removing approximately 75 percent of the stationary air monitoring equipment from the greater Houston, Corpus Christi, and Beaumont areas. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-

September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

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**From:** Ryan Vise  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:07 AM  
**To:** Andrea Morrow  
**Cc:** David Gray ([gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)); Richard Chism; Michael Honeycutt; Susan Johnson; Tracy Miller  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed response to AP questions - please review

I'm good with these answers.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2017, at 11:06 AM,  
Andrea Morrow  
<[Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Morrow@tceq.texas.gov)>  
wrote:

FYI, Cory. He has deleted the third question because he understands the nature of the AirNow report.

I don't have sufficient information to answer these questions. I suggest we say, the TCEQ has reactivated 65 percent of our monitoring network in

the hurricane-affected areas.

(Insert EPA monitoring data here or explain why it is not available)

The same rules apply for start-up, shut-down activities however delays may occur based upon factors related to the emergency in some situations (i.e. power outages, computer system failure, etc.).

Hourly data from the operating ozone monitors in TCEQ's network are used by the EPA to predict air quality. What you are looking at is a **forecast** based on one-hour (snapshot) readings. The 201 ppb you referenced is not an actual monitored reading, it is a projection. TCEQ is aware of elevated ozone levels west of Houston which is not unusual for this time of year.

1)

You are doing air monitoring at the Arkema plant in Crosby. Can you tell me what your monitoring has found? What chemicals in what concentrations? Where are you doing the monitoring exactly?

2) Are EPA/TCEQ monitoring air quality around petrochemical plants and refineries

looking for potential problems? Have they deployed any mobile air monitors? (I gather these are EPA crews working in coordination with TCEQ?) If so, what have they found in the last few days near the petrochemical plants around the ship channel? If they haven't been monitoring, why not? The startup and shutdown operations typically produce heavier emissions of airborne contaminants, right?

3) I saw an ozone level of 201 ppb recorded in Houston on Friday on [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) and Andrea Morrow of TCEQ told my colleague Jason Dearen that the reading was recorded as a single hourly max at one monitoring station. Your ozone level for the day (95 ppb) is based on an eight-hour of average, she said. But that does not deny that a single station had that maximum level, correct? What station was it? Can you tell me what hour of the day? Did any other stations Very Unhealthy ozone levels on Friday or Saturday?

Hourly data from the operating ozone monitors in TCEQ's network are used by the EPA to predict air



quality. What you are looking at is a **forecast** based on one-hour (snapshot) readings. The 201 ppb you referenced is not an actual monitored reading, it is a projection. TCEQ is aware of elevated ozone levels west of Houston which is not unusual for this time of year.

4) What are the state of Texas and the EPA doing to monitor public health near the petrochemical plants and refineries given the extraordinary shutdown and startup pollution and the possibility of contaminants released into their neighborhoods? Will there be health monitoring? If so, by whom? If not, why not?